Amendment to the Claims

Complete listing of the claims.

1. (Original) Water soluble salt cores manufactured by compacting a mixture of water

soluble salts and binder under pressure and by subsequently subjecting said compacted

mixture to a thermal treatment, characterized in that the binder is an inorganic phosphate or a

mixture of inorganic phosphates with a fraction of between 0.5 and 10 wt. % of said mixture.

2. (Original) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, characterized in that

the binder contains a fraction of an inorganic borate.

3. (Currently amended) The water soluble cores as set forth in claim 1 or 2, characterized

in that the mixture contains a fraction of between >0 and 10 wt. % of a parting agent.

4. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3,

characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a monoaluminium phosphate.

5. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3,

characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a boron phosphate.

6. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in claim 1, 2 or 3,

characterized in that the inorganic phosphate is a sodium polyphosphate.

7. (Currently amended) The water soluble salt cores as set forth in any one of the afore

mentioned claims, claim 1 characterized in that thermal treatment occurs at temperatures of

less than 730 °C.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

120 South Riverside Plaza

Floor 22

Chicago, IL 60606

August 30, 2006

By Thomas R. Vigil

Reg. No. 24,542

Reg. No. 24,542

Attorney for Applicant